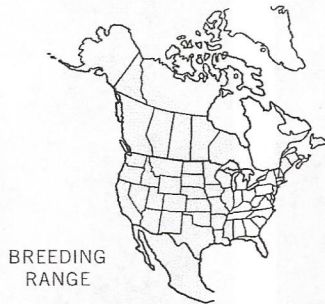
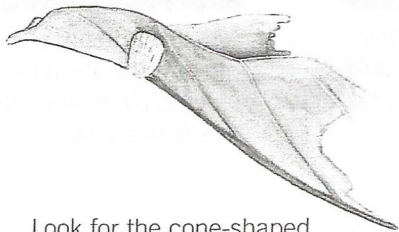


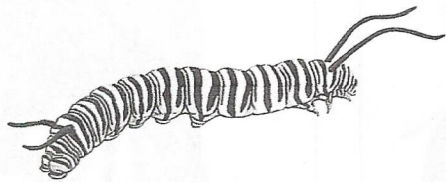
Monarch *Danaus plexippus*



BREEDING RANGE



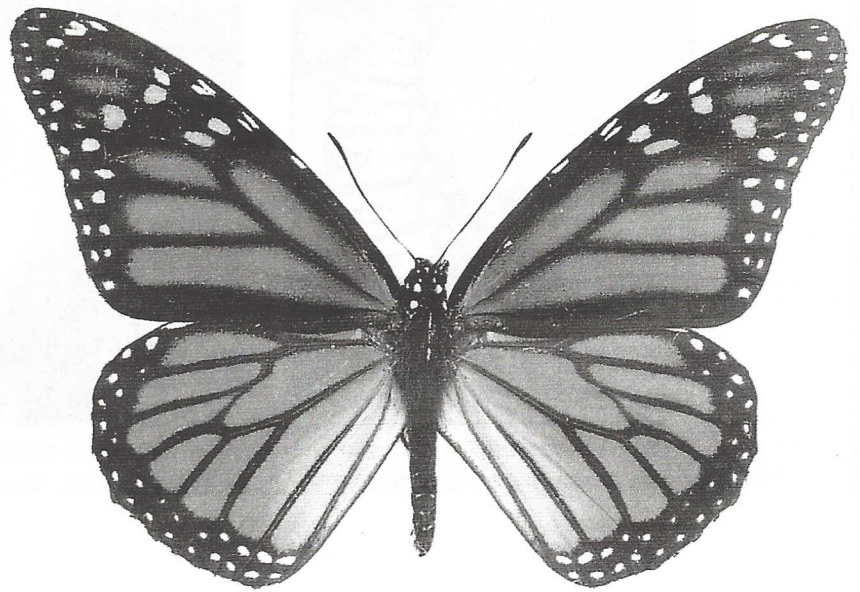
Look for the cone-shaped, ivory-colored eggs on milkweed leaves only.



The ravenous Monarch caterpillar is white with transverse yellow and black stripes and long black filaments at either end. Length: 2" (50 mm)



The smooth green chrysalis is dotted with gold and crowned with a golden circle.



WINGSPAN AVERAGE 4½-6" (100 MM)

The familiar orange and black wings of the Monarch have made it the most widely known butterfly in North America. Famous for its unbelievable migration, this lep is fascinating at any stage.

The egg is found only on species of milkweed. In a few days the black head of the larva will appear at the tip of the egg. It will soon eat its way out and begin a legendary journey.

The caterpillar dines only on milkweed, which is toxic to many organisms and makes the cat toxic, in turn, to predators. Its vivid yellow, black, and white color pattern is thus a danger signal to predators. Long filaments at either end of the larva are used to flick away parasitic flies and wasps. Unfortunately, they are not the best defense, and many caterpillars become infected and die.

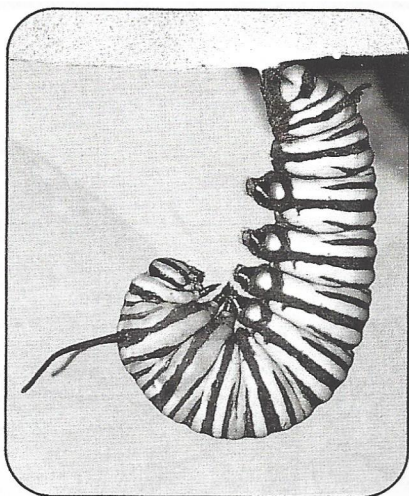
The exquisite green chrysalis is found suspended upside down. Near the top of the smooth-skinned capsule is a golden circlet trimmed in ebony. Toward the bottom are golden dots with two at the very apex. These are said to become the eyes of the adult. Just prior to emerging, the entire chrysalis will become clear enough that the complete adult will be visible.

Monarchs that emerge near the Autumnal Equinox are known for their spectacular fall migration to Mexico. Male Danaidae have a large black dot in the center of each hind wing. These are scent-releasing pouches, which are used during courtship to excite the female.

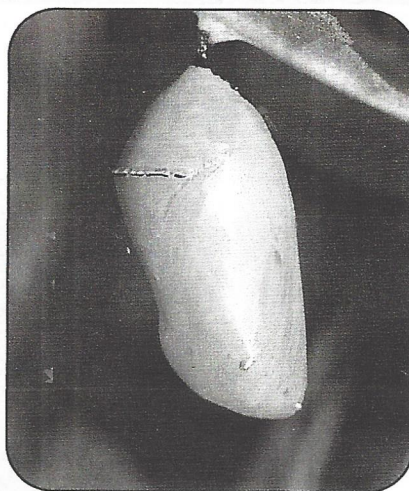
Host plants: Milkweed

Nectar plants: Milkweed, asters, red clover, zinnia, cosmos, lantana, pentas, daisy

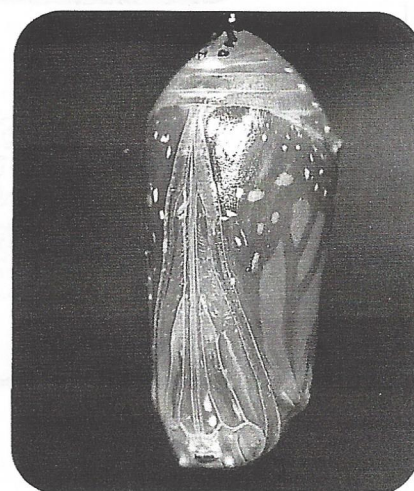
The Magical Emergence of a Monarch



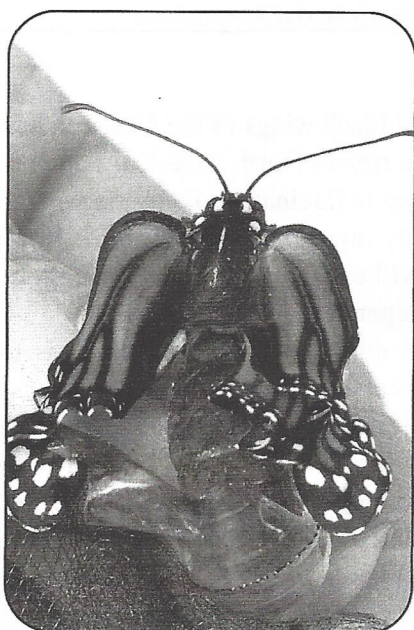
When the caterpillar hangs in a J shape, pupation is near.



At first the chrysalis is a satiny green capsule, flecked with gold.



As the butterfly prepares to emerge, the dark wings are visible through the transparent skin.



The butterfly splits the chrysalis and begins to emerge.



The wings are crumpled and damp and must dry before the butterfly can fly.



The butterfly slowly pumps its wings to prepare for flight.

The 2-inch (50 mm) Monarch caterpillar pupates in 10 to 12 days.

